

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 24 are currently pending in the application.

Claims 23 and 24 are newly added with this amendment.

This communication is in response to the Office Action of June 2, 2005.

Information Disclosure Statement(s)

Applicant notes the filing of an Information Disclosure Statement herein on March 3, 2004 and a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement on April 27, 2005 and notes that copies of the PTO-1449s were not returned with the outstanding Office Action. Applicant respectfully requests that the information cited on the PTO-1449s be made of record herein.

Preliminary Amendment

Applicant notes the filing of a Preliminary Amendment on May 21, 2004, which filing was not acknowledged in the outstanding Office Action. Should the Preliminary Amendment have failed to have been entered in the Office file, Applicant will provide a true copy to the Examiner.

Double Patenting Rejections

Claims 1 through 22 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1 through 20 of U.S. Patent 6,682,998.

Claims 1 through 22 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1 through 54 of copending Application No. 10/793,564.

In order to avoid further expenses and time delay, Applicant elects to expedite the prosecution of the present application by filing terminal disclaimers to obviate the double patenting rejections in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.321 (b) and (c). Applicant's filing of the terminal disclaimers should not be construed as acquiescence of the Examiner's double patenting or obviousness-type double patenting rejection. Attached is the terminal disclaimers and accompanying fee.

Applicant submits that claims 1 through 24 are clearly allowable.

Applicant requests the allowance of claims 1 through 24 and the case passed for issue.

Respectfully submitted,



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